

AMD17-137

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to: DOT STIP
Subject: Amendment 17

The Juneau Road project should be put on hold until all engineering is completed, cost estimates are validated and all necessary funding for the project has been identified. DOT's consultants Golder Associates testified at the Senate Transportation hearing in February that the engineering for the most difficult section of road has not been completed and that any cost estimate at this point must be a "work in progress."

This project has been a pet project of DOT's Southeast Region which has consistently been willing to sacrifice important local improvements for this one big testosterone heavy, ego satisfying, "punch her through" boys project. Their smoke and mirrors proposal to raid the state's transportation dollars 12 or more years into the future makes a laughing stock of the STIP process, almost as funny as Jeff Ottesen's portrayal of the road as "self financing."

Someone should tell DOT that these Murkowski era tactics don't fly in the Palin Administration. The current Governor is a staunch believer in a fully informed process. She needs to reign in the boys at Southeast Region and put the brakes on this project until the public and lawmakers have all the information about the costs of this project.